

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Office Action dated April 26, 2007, claim 11 has been amended. Claims 1-4, 9 and 11 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

The indication that claims 1-4 and 9 are allowable, and that claim 11 is objected to, but would be allowable if amended to overcome noted indefiniteness, is acknowledged and appreciated.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner maintains that “cooling said injection-molded compact without performing degreasing and sintering for solidification” is indefinite as it is not clear whether this means that (1) there is no degreasing nor sintering, but there is solidification, or (2) there is no degreasing, no sintering and no solidification.

By this response, independent claim 11 has been amended to recite:

cooling said injection-molded compact for solidification without performing steps of degreasing and sintering between the step of injection molding and the step of cooling the injection-molded compact.

Amended independent claim 11 is believed to recite the invention with the degree of precision and particularity required by the statute. Therefore, it is respectfully urged that the rejection be withdrawn as to amended independent claim 11.

CONCLUSION

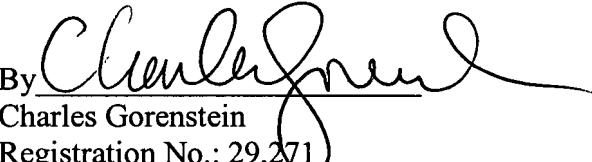
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: **JUL 26 2007**

Respectfully submitted,

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